

19 December 2022

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(iv)

REF: OIA-11540

Dear s  
9(2)

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 21 November 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Please show me the workings and state the assumptions for the \$917m calculation of benefits.*

*Also please confirm that you are making a deliberate decision to proceed with a project costing \$1.3billion with benefits of only \$917 million, losing \$400m.*

I am refusing the first part of your request for the workings and assumptions used in the calculation of benefits under section 18(d) of the Act because the information requested is or will soon be publicly available. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency will be making the National Ticketing Solution Detailed Business Case publicly available on its website in the week of 19 December 2022, and we will provide you with the link to access it.

Regarding the second part of your request, the answer is no. The business case process used for this programme has been at a national level. It compared the costs and benefits of doing nothing, or maintaining the status quo, against two alternative options. One of those options is the National Ticketing Solution that has been supported.

Part of the rationale for this is that at a national level (central and local government) we already spend significant amounts running the existing ticketing solutions. This is in the region of \$785 million when extrapolated out across the life span of the proposed National Ticketing Solution. The business case takes this into account when doing the benefit and cost calculations, as that spend will no longer be incurred. The figure of \$1.3 billion that has been used to describe the cost of the programme includes all of the operational and running costs for the new solution, so it will replace those existing costs.

The incremental cost differential is the element that we assess the benefits against. The workings are discussed in more detail within the Detailed Business Case itself, which as per the first part of this request, will be available to you from the week of 19 December 2022.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact the Ministerial Services team, by email to [official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yogesh Anand', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Yogesh Anand**

Programme Director, NTS